

THE
ADULATEUR

A
Tragedy,

As it is now acted in

U P P E R S E R V I A.

Then let us rise my friends, and strive to fill
This little interval, this pause of life,
(While yet our liberty and fates are doubtful)
With resolution, friendship, Roman bravery,
And all the virtues we can crowd into it;
That Heav'n may say it ought to be prolong'd.
CATO'S Tragedy.

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DRAMATIS PERSONAE.

- RAPATIO,..... Governor of Servia.
Limput,..... Married to Rapatio's Sister.
Hazelrod,..... L. C. Justice. Brother to Limput.
Dupe,..... Secretary of State.
P.....p,..... An Officer.
Gripeall,..... Captain Bashaw.
Bagshot,..... Aga of the Janizaries
Meagre,..... Brother to Rapatio.
E.....r,..... A Friend to Government.
Brutus,..... Chief of the Patriots.
Junius,.... }
Cassius, ... } PATRIOTS.
Portius, ... }
Marcus, a Young Patriot,
Citizens, Senators, Ghosts.

T H E
Adulateur

A C T I. S C E N E I.

A street in SERVIA

Enter BRUTUS and CASSIUS.

BRUTUS.

IS this the once fam'd mistress of the north?
The sweet retreat of freedom? dearly purchas'd!
A clime matur'd with blood; from whose rich soil
Has sprung a glorious harvest.—Oh! my friend,
The change how drear! the sullen ghost of bondage
Stalks full in view—already with her pinions
She shades the affrighted land—th' insulting soldiers
Tread down our choicest rights; while hoodwink'd justice
Drops her scales, and totters from her basis.
Thus torn with nameless wounds, my bleeding country
Demands a tear—that tear I'll freely give her,

Cassius. Oh! Brutus, our noble ancestors,
Who liv'd for freedom, and for freedom dy'd:
Who scorn'd to roll in affluence, if that state
Was sicken'd o'er with the dread name of slaves:
Who in this desert stock'd with beasts and men,
Whose untam'd souls breath'd nought but slaughter—
Grasp'd at freedom, and they nobly won it;
Then smiled and dy'd contented, Should these heroes
Start from their tombs and view their dear possessions,
The price of so much labor, cost and blood,
Gods! what a pang 'twould cost them; yes, they'd weep,
Nor weep in vain. That good old spirit,

Which warm'd them once, would rouse to noble actions.
 Ere they would *cringe* they'd bathe their swords in blood;
 In heaps they'd fall, and on the pile of freedom
 Expire like heroes, or they'd save their country.

Brutus. Oh! Cassius, you inspire a noble passion,
 It glows within me, and every pulse I feel,
 Beats high for glory.—I sprang, and Oh! it fires me,
 I sprang from men who fought, who bled for freedom:
 From men who in the conflict laugh'd at danger:
 Struggl'd like patriots, and through seas of blood
 Waded to conquest.—I'll not disgrace them.
 I'll show a spirit worthy of my sire.
 Tho' malice dart her stings;—tho' poverty
 Stares full upon me;—tho' power with all her thunder
 Rolls o'er my head,—thy cause my bleeding country
 I'll never leave—I'll struggle hard for thee,
 And if I perish, perish like a freeman.

Cassius. You're not alone—there are, I know, ten thousand,
 Ne'er bow'd the knee to idol power—Repeated insults
 Have rous'd the most lethargic. E'en the old man
 Whose blood has long creep'd sluggish thro' his veins,
 Now feels his warmth renew'd—his pulse beat quick—
 His eyes dart fire—he grasps his sword,
 And calls on youth to aid him—yea my son,
 My little son, who sportive climbs my knees,
 Fondly intreats my aid, and lisps out freedom.
 But see our friends—their generous bosoms glow
 With manly sentiment:—I will accost them.
 Patriots hail!—

Enter JUNIUS and PORTIUS.

Portius. All hail my friends!——
 Well met I trust, and with one heart and mind.
 We have lately seen a piece of pageantry,
 Near *Imports* mansion, big with mighty meaning.

The period dawns, when all those parricides
 Who long had sported with their country's ruin,
 Begin to tremble—Shame, contempt croud on them.
 The boy despises, and the stripling smiles.

Brutus. 'Tis well—here lies my hope:—let but a sense,
 A manly sense of injur'd freedom *wake* them,
 The day's half won. The cold inactive spirit
 That *slumbers* in its chains,—at *this* I tremble.
 Oh! patriots rouse. The distant branches lop'd,
 The root now groans—let not the thought of *power*,
 Ungenerous thought! freeze up the genial current.
 'Tis not a *conquest*, merely, leads to fame——
 Th' *attempt* enobles. Yes, the suffering patriot
 Tow'rs while he bleeds, and triumphs while he dies.

Junius. When Brutus speaks, old age grows young.
 Whatever right I've lost I've still a dagger,
 And have a hand to wield it—'tis true it shakes—
 With age it shakes: Yet in the cause of freedom
 It catches vigor. You shall find it strike
 The tyrant from his throne.

Brutus. Thou good old man,
 Thy words a noble ardor kindle in me.
 Come patriots, let the bright example fire you.
 By all that's sacred! by our fathers' shades!
 Illustrious shades! who hover o'er this country,
 And watch like guardian angels o'er its rights:
 By all that blood, that precious blood they spilt,
 To gain for us the happiest boon of Heaven:
 By life—by death—or still to catch you more,
 By LIBERTY, by BONDAGE, I conjure you.

All. Nor is it vain. We swear, e'er we'll be slaves,
 We'll pour our choicest blood. No terms shall move us.
 These streets we'll pave with many an human skull.
 Carnage, blood and death, shall be familiar,

Tho' Servia weep her desolated realms.

Brutus. 'Tis bravely spoke. And now thou power supreme!
Who hatest wrong, and wills creation happy,
Hear and revenge a bleeding country's groans;
Teach us to act with firmness and with zeal:
Till happier prospects gild the gloomy waste.
While from our fate shall future ages know,
Virtue and freedom are thy care below. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.

A Chamber in Rapatio's House.

Enter RAPATIO, solus.

Hail happy day! In which I find my wishes,
My gayest wishes crown'd. Brundo retir'd,
The stage is clear. Whatever gilded prospects
E'er swam before me—Honor, places, pensions—
All at command—Oh! my full heart! 'twill burst!
Now patriots think, think on the past and tremble.
Think on that gloomy night, when, as you phras'd it,
Indignant justice rear'd her awful front,
And frown'd me from her—when ten thousand monsters,
Wretches who only claim'd mere outward form,
To give a sanction to humanity
Broke my retirement—rush'd into my chamber
And rifled all my secrets—then flung me helpless,
Naked and destitute, to *beg* protection.
Hell! what a night was this—and do they think
I'll e'er *forget* such treatment! No. Ye gods—
If there is any secret sympathy,
Which *born*, and *bred* together, they may claim,
I give it to the winds—out! out! vile passion,
I'll trample down the choicest of their rights,

And make them curse the hour that gave me birth;
 That hung me up a meteor in the sky,
 Which from its tail, shook pestilence and ruin.
 But here comes *Dupe*, a creature *form'd by nature*
 To be a sycophant—Tho' I despised him
 Yet he's too *necessary* for my purpose,
 To be relinquish'd—I'll take him by the hand—
 Give him a bow, and buoy up his hopes—
 He's mine for ever.

Enter DUPE

Dupe. It gives me highest joy to see your honor
 Servia's sole ruler—what tho' not complete,
 And primly seated in the chair of power,
 Yet all the reins of government you hold.
 And should that happy period e'er arrive
 When Brundo quits for thee entire possession,
 Remember *Dupe*, and think on former friendships.

Rapatio. I'll not forget. And well thou said I held
 The reins of power; and I will make them *feel* it.
 And, happy for me, all the posts of honor
 Are fill'd with beings wholly at ny service.
 The *b*———*h* what are they? *Creatures* of my own;
 Who if I spoke, would mangle law and reason,
 And nobly trample on the highest ties.
 And hence the soldier, whose *security*
 Is the *prime basis* of my government,
 May scoff, insult, nay, in the face of day,
 Abuse the citizens, yet go unpunish'd.
P———*p* too, an *happy creature* this
 To serve a turn—tho' men whose breath was slaughter,
 Should urge the meanest of our servants on—
 To bathe their daggers in their masters' blood,
P———*p* stays proceedings—At my nod,

Will break thro' every tie of law and justice
 And bid them those monsters go—In short all orders
 Obey my summons, and perform my will.

Dupe. What halcyon days!—And have I liv'd to see them?
 And share them too? enough—I've liv'd my day.

Rapatio. But tell me Dupe, they say these muttering wretches

Grow fond of riot, and with pageantry
 Do ridicule the *friends* of government.

Dupe. The thing is fact—The worthy citizen
 Finds property precarious—all things tend
 To anarchy and ruin.

Rapatio. I'll make the scoundrels know who sways the sceptre;
 Before I'll suffer this, I'll throw the state
 In dire confusion, nay I'll hurl it down,
 And bury all things in one common ruin.

O'er fields of death, with hasting step I'll speed,
 And smile at length to see my country bleed:
 From my tame heart the pang of virtue fling,
 And 'mid the general flame, like Nero sing.—

[*Exeunt.*]

End of the first ACT

ACT II. SCENE I.

Enter BRUTUS and CASSIUS.

BRUTUS

Ha! is it come to this?—and did you see it?

Cassius. I saw it—and could paint a scene of woe
 Would make the sun collect his scattered rays
 And shroud himself in night—While numbers crouded,
 Thoughtless of harm to see the pageantry,
 And sportive youths play'd gamesome in the street,

That wretch, that cursed E——r,
 Whom long this country blush'd to own her son—
 Urg'd on by hell and malice, unprovok'd—
 Hurl'd thro' the croud promiscuous death and slaughter—
 One youth, unhappy victim fell—he lies
 Reeking in gore, and bites the hated ground.

Brutus. Oh! this poor land—what scenes await it!
 This is the dawn—if murders open here,
 What will the day disclose! Oppression strews
 Her earliest paths with blood—gods! are we men?
 And stand we still and bear it? where's our sense?
 Our ancient sense of freedom? even the boy,
 Should we be tame, would feel his pulse beat high:
 And nobly grasp the sword he scarce could wield.

Cassius. It must be so—we'll right ourselves or die—
 But what approaches here?

Enter PORTIUS and a croud

Portius. Who's there?

Brutus. A friend.

Portius. Ha! Brutus, take the sword and bravely plunge it.

Brutus. In whom?

Portius. A wretch.

Brutus. A wretch?

Portius. A murderer.

Let not one motive damp thy rising ardor—
 The parent weeps his child, the staff of age,
 Untimely slain. Pity, revenge—rage—fury—
 Ten thousand boisterous passions glow within me
 And call for blood. Not this poor wretch alone—
The grand prime spring shall fall a sacrifice.
 Tho' all his legions fondly hover'd round him.
 I'd cut my way thro' all—and this my sword
 Drench in the tyrant's blood, then on the pile

Of bleeding freedom, pour the rich libation.

Brutus. Stay, Portius, stay—let reason calm thy passions
Let us not sully by unmeaning actions,
The cause of injur'd freedom; this demands
A cool, sedate and yet *determin'd* spirit.

Portius. Brutus, thy mind compos'd can reason well,
But when I see even innocence itself
Can find no shelter—my pulse beats high!
I'm all on fire—speak to the distant winds!
Command a storm! or lull an hurricane!—

Brutus. But hear me, Portius, one word more I ask thee.
You know the foes of freedom, eagle-ey'd,
Watch every deed. They wish to see us act
Up to the character they long have painted:
Headstrong—rebellious—factious—uncontroul'd,—
Rather to *justice* drag the murderer.

Portius. Brutus you know who fill that sacred bench.
Rapatio's tools, mere *creatures* of the tyrant.
Depend upon't they'll vilely wrest the law
And save the villain—yes, depend upon't,
Should he be brought before that brib'd tribunal,
They'll *plead* his cause, and save the murderer's life.—

Brutus. Well Portius, that's with them.
We've done as patriots ought—like men who scorn
The name of *faction*—men who nobly act
From *sense of honor*. If they save the villain
THEIRS IS THE GUILT OF BLOOD: and he who holds
Impartial justice will demand an answer.

Portius. 'Tis well—you've charm'd my angry soul to rest.
I'll go and soothe the boisterous multitude,
Calm all their souls, and make them act like freemen. [Exit.

Brutus. Oh! Cassius—Oh! my friend—my heart it bleeds,
It bleeds to hear the groans of gasping freedom.
Could but my life atone and save my country,

Pleas'd could I bare this breast, and die in transport.

Cassius. No Brutus, live, and live to rescue virtue.
 For this ten thousand motives croud upon us.
 Our fathers seem to murmur in their tombs,
 And urge us on. Last night as I lay musing,
 On evils past, and trembling at the future:
 A gleam of light broke in on my retirement.
 My father's ghost burst on my startled fancy,
 And froze the current of my blood—he star'd—
 Horrid he star'd—then frown'd and spoke in thunder.
 “Cassius attend. Where is that noble spirit
 I once instill'd—behold this fair possession
 I struggled hard to purchase, fought and bled
 To leave it yours unsullied—Oh defend it,
 Nor lose it but in death.” He spake and vanish'd.
 Yes, I reply'd, thou injur'd shade, I will defend;
 And e'er I'll lose it meet ten thousand deaths.

Brutus. Nor these alone—all those who fought for freedom,
 Chide the unmanly sloth—meanwhile, my friend,
 Let's see the mournful obsequies perform'd.
 Give to the dust the relics of a youth
 Untimely crop'd, and lost—like some gay flow'r
 Which vernal zephyrs fan'd and gentle sunbeams
 Wak'd to life—awhile it chear'd our sight,
 And promis'd pleasure when the rigorous north
 Blasted its bloom, and froze up every sweet.
 Let's pay this last sad tribute to the dead,
 Together in the funeral pomp let's go
 Share in their grief, and join the general woe.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.

Enter BAGSHOT and RAPATIO.

BAGSHOT.

It must not—shall not be—the dirty scoundrels,
Foaming with passion animate each other—
Abuse my men and trample on my bands.

Rapatio. Insulting dogs! and are they *wrought* to this?
'Tis well—a scene now opens to my mind.
And hark'ee Bagshot—should these high swoln wretches
Again insult, remember you are soldiers—

Bagshot. Well then, since you approve,
I'll give those orders, which I *dare not* do
By *my* mere motion.
Repeated wrongs have blown up all their courage.
They stretch like steeds, and snuff the distant battle;
And like the vulture, couch in dreadful ambush
And wait a day of carnage—Sire, adieu— [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.

Changes to a street in Servia.

Enter BRUTUS, solus.

To be the sport of every flying moment—
The butt at which old Time may throw his shafts,
And vex him oft—light tennis ball of fortune—
This is thy fate, O man. Weak helpless creature,
Design'd to crawl with other little reptiles
Round this dull globe of earth—to sport a while,
And wanton in the sunshine of an hour.
Frolic and gay he trifles on the stage,
Nor sees the various ills behind the scene.
These dart their baneful stings unnotic'd at him

And spoil his mirth—misfortune treads on joy,
 And every hour comes loaded with new sorrows.
 This I experience—each succeeding day
 Affords fresh scenes of woe—not only *one*
 Deaf to the call of nature pleading in him
 Imbrues his hands in blood—ten thousand join him.
 The soldier heated by the curs'd example,
 His poinard whets,
 And swears to fill these streets with blood and slaughter,

Enter CASSIUS in much agitation.

Cassius. Oh! Brutus, what a scene! the hour is come—
 Our fates are at a crisis—Servia shakes—
 Thro' this once happy seat of gaiety and pleasure
 The soldier foams, and belches nought but slaughter.
 This fatal night, the plan *before concerted,*
 Bursts into flames—the virtuous citizen
 Flies from one death, and rushes on another.
 Hard by I saw a little innocent,
 Whose quiv'ring tears might make e'en Nero weep,
 Clasp the rough knees of the inhuman ruffian,
 And beg for pity—but he begs in vain—
 High o'er his head the sabre dreadful gleam'd,
 He fell and spake no more—but hark!—

[*a confus'd sound of voices, clashing of arms, with
 frequent oaths is heard.*]

It must be so——

Brutus, the citizen now falls a victim
 To brutal malice—ha!—a gun—another—
 And another still—O my poor country,
 When will thy troubles end!—

Enter JUNIUS, PORTIUS and others, in much agitation.

Junius. Th' inhuman soldiers stamp the hostile ground,

His garments stain'd with blood,
 The streets of Servia sweat with human gore.
 Oh! Brutus, I'm on fire—hand me my sword,
 And give me to the foe—
 And if we die—let's die like men
 And bravely fall expiring on the foe—
 That man dies well who sheds his blood for freedom.

Portius. Oh! had you seen promiscuous slaughter hurl'd—
 Or had you heard the groans of innocence,
 'Twould rouse you into action.

While I can boast one short reprieve from death
 I'll breathe revenge. This unstain'd guiltless dagger
 Shall sweat with blood, and rust with human gore.

Brutus. 'Tis well—there Portius spoke like himself,
 Let's wake the latent seeds of honor into action.

What do I see?—or is it merely fancy?
 Methinks yon rising ghost stares full in view,
 Points to its wounds and cries aloud—REVENGE.—
 My country groans—and can ye hear her sighs,
 And hear them tamely?—Oh! my heart 'twill burst.

Junius. Her sighs?—and hear them tamely? never, never—
 Who knows the secrets of my soul
 Knows 'tis on fire, and bursting for revenge.
 What tho' I totter with a weight of years,
 And palsied age relaxes every nerve,
 Yet such foul deeds have rous'd the genial current,
 That long had lag'd—this life by nature's laws,
 Like an old garment must have soon been drop'd:
 And never could I, had I liv'd to ages,
 Have dy'd so well as now—to die at ease,
 And drop into the grave, unheard, unknown,
 This is but common fate—
 He who bleeds in freedom's cause, expires illustrious.
 He falls, but catches immortality.

While grateful millions croud around
 And with a generous tear bedew his urn. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.

In a large HALL.

Enter BRUTUS and a croud of CITIZENS.

With servants bearing the dead bodies.

BRUTUS.

Here lay them down, and bare their bleeding bosoms,
 That I may feel their wounds, and weep upon them.
 These wounds gape wide, and speak expressive language,
 They speak your state, the sport of every ruffian
 Who plays with death and thirsts for freemen's blood.
 For you they fell—but hark! they cry REVENGE.

Citizens. REVENGE——

Brutus. True 'tis a mournful sight—to see a brother
 Fall by a brother's hand—the desert savage,
 Who kills his foe and feasts upon his flesh,
 Yet spares his kindred—the forest monster,
 Who stains the passage to his den with blood,
 Abhors such deeds—but shocking as they are,
 They teach a powerful lesson.
 This soon may be your fate, the furious soldier
 Breaths nought but death——

Brutus. These twinkling stars that glimmer in their orbs
 And seem to weep—these pale and ghastly forms—
 This scene of woe, and death's incumbent shade,
 All join to rouze us—*these* embers here conceal'd
 If set on fire, would burst into a flame,
 And burn up the globe—take hence these bodies,

And decently entomb them——
Croud round their bier, and weep upon their graves.

[*Exeunt.*

[With the bodies attended with a long train of mourners, the bells tolling]

Enter BRUTUS.

Brutus. Oh! what a scene of woe! you oft, my friends,
Have found me pleading in the cause of freedom,
And warding off the blows intended for her.
I'm struggling now with a superior stream;
It baffles every effort——But the conflict's glorious:
Should we succeed an happy tide of comfort
Flows on the soul—new scenes of joy await us,
And gild the ev'ning of our days.
But if we chance to fall, we fall for virtue.
The cause disarms the tyrant of his sting
And wards off his shafts—while our memories
For ages live and blossom round the tomb.
Such thoughts as these now buoy up my spirits,
And brighten all the gloom;—what tho' misfortunes
And scenes of blood and carnage croud upon me;
E're long my soul shall leave

These dismal tracks of misery, and go
Where tides of joy in happier currents flow.
Where the proud wretch that laugh'd at every tie,
And from the breast of virtue forc'd a sigh;
No more invades—but endless pleasures roll,
And one eternal sunshine cheers the soul.

[*Exeunt.*

End of the second ACT

ACT III. SCENE I.

*A spacious HALL.**Enter JUNIUS, BRUTUS, CASSIUS, CITIZENS, &c.*

JUNIUS.

It's time, high time to check the rage of slaughter
And let our actions show that we are freemen.

Brutus. Welcome thrice happy day! for so I call thee,
Tho' scenes of woe attend us——

I feel a ray of hope, that richest gem
Which glimmers in the darkest night,
And gilds the gloom—that firm determin'd spirit,
Which seems to animate this grand assembly,
The most august that ever set in Servia,
We'll rescue freedom—yes, thy wounds my country
Shall soon be clos'd, and from the precious gore
Which stains thy streets shall spring a glorious harvest.
Now is the crisis; if we lose this moment,
All's gone for ever——Catch the happy period,
And boldly hurl oppression from her basis.

Cassius. And can you want for motives to perswade us?
Go to yon tomb and ask the weeping marble
The fate of those who sleep within its bosom.
They fell in cries (and listen to the tale)
Unhappy victims to inhuman ruffians;
Who wish to drink this country's richest blood,
And crush expiring freedom—Tell me ye patriots
Will you submit to fall without a struggle?
The very worm you tread on shews resentment.

Brutus. 'Tis true there's mighty danger—
But shall that thought, that mean ungenerous thought
Damp in the least our ardor?

We ne'er can be seduc'd by gaudy charms of riches

resentment
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Pleasure's fantastick ray———
 Leave this for weaker minds—We scorn them all.
 Rather let Servia tumble fr̄m her basis,
 And in one general ruin cover all,
 Than see her citizens oppress'd with chains
 And sweetly slumb'ring in the gilded fetters.
 The man who boasts his freedom
 Feels solid joy—tho' poor and low his state,
 He looks with pity on the *honor'd* slave.

Cassius. These are sentiments which make us men.
 Has life so many charms,
 That it can sweeten every hour of bondage?
 Look to the *Turk*, and relish if you can,
 A life in chains—he sighs, but sighs unpitied.
 Groans are so frequent that they pass unnotic'd,
 And no one counts the steps of misery.

Enter a GHOST with naked breast exposing his wounds.

Cassius proceeds,

Oh! Heaven! see yonder ghastly form,
 It comes to push us on, and cries again REVENGE
 Points to its wounds, and beckons us away.
 And shall we falter?

[*ghost sinks*]

Brutus. There glow'd the flame of heroes.
 If thus resolv'd, some to Rapatio speed;
 Tell him we are determin'd—fix'd as fate—
 The soldiers stay no longer—if denied
 A scene of woe shall quickly open.
 Yon sun shall set in blood—the weeping moon
 Shrink in her orb—we'll dare, what men can dare;
 And with our daggers force a way to freedom.

[*A number are sent to RAPATIO'S with an account of this resolution.*]

SCENE II.

*The great HALL.**Enter RAPATIO and SENATORS.*

RAPATIO.

Well, friends, you hear the issue of their councils.
 The soldier goes, or else they swear to bathe
 These streets in blood—ask my resolution.
 Say, shall the soldier go?

1st. *Senator.* The people's fury's rais'd: they scorn to
 trifle longer.

'Tis not the efforts of expiring faction—
 The weak attempts of a distracted party.
 But men who act on principles of honor,
 Now grasp the sword, and glorious in the struggle.
 Will force their way to freedom.—

Rapatio. True, but remember—
 These troops;—no power of mine
 Can contract—I'm but a servant—

2d. *Senator.* But stop, Rapatio, stop.
 'Tis the cause of freedom they defend:—
 Thy very life's connected with the issue.
 They will not suffer unreveng'd:
 You too may fall———

Go mark the gloom that broods on every feature.
 Where mournful echo heaves along the wall,
 And strikes with all the elegance of woe.
 No headstrong opposition actuates.
 They coolly weigh, and cautiously determine;
 Speak what they feel, and what they feel they act.

Rapatio. Well, I'll see Bagshot, as he advises
 So will I act———

3d. *Senator.* Unhappy state of mind!

[*Exit.*]

What tho' ten thousand pleasures beam around him,
 The gilded couch—the airy post of honor:
 No balm of peace can mitigate his pain,
 The ghost of freedom haunts his midnight hours.
 This is thy state, O guilt—to stop, is ruin—
 To follow on is death—give me but virtue,
 That sunshine of the soul—enough—I'm happy.

Scene changes to a private apartment—

Enter RAPATIO and BAGSHOT.

Rapatio. The cause is lost! the Patriots up in arms,
 Pant for revenge—the soldier must retire—
 Say, Bagshot. Can you stand the gathering storm?

Bagshot. 'Tis an hard case indeed—what can I do?
 A soldier's honor should remain unsullied.
 True to his post, should laugh at every danger,
 Enjoy his fate, and smile amid the storm.
 But when ten thousand furies burst upon me,
 Despise my utmost force, and breathe defiance—
Honor says stand—but *prudence* says retire.

Rapatio. But Bagshot! how this scoundrel mob will triumph.
 Rather rouse up some noble purpose in you;
 Burn down their airy towers, and let the flames
 Light thee to conquest.

Bagshot. These are charming words.
 Close in his cell, the calm philosopher
 Enjoys the storm, grasps at the palm of glory,
 And fights the *distant* battles of the world.
 It will not, cannot do—if they're determin'd,
 We yield to conquering fate, and curse our fortune.

Rapatio. Bagshot farewell—I'll to the hall, [*Exeunt.*

SCENE III.

*The upper HALL.**Enter RAPATIO and SENATORS.*

RAPATIO.

Since you advis'd to this, call in the patriots—

Enter PATRIOTS—

It grieves my soul, to hear the groans of freedom;
 And I'm *resolv'd*, whatever it may cost me,
 To *heal* these wounds and *save* my bleeding country.
 I've *struggled hard* to get the cause *remov'd*.
 The soldier goes—and 'tis my fervent prayer—
 Each other wrong may find a quick remove,
 And prince and peasant join in mutual love.

[*Exeunt.*]*Scene changes to the SENATE House.**Enter BRUTUS.*

Brutus. Patriots all hail! the happy hour approaches
 When vanquish'd freedom rears again her head,
 And sweetly smiles. Our constant manly conduct
 Has won the day—the sullen foe retires—

[*He is interrupted with an universal shout*]————

Oh! what a burst of joy was that—there broke
 The warm effusion of an heart that feels
 In virtue's cause. Gods! what a throb of pleasure!
 To look around this vast, this crouded hall
 And hail them freemen—what tho' some have bled,
 Unhappy victims—what tho' I have wept,
 And struggl'd hard to rescue thee, my country,
 This glorious harvest richly compensates
 For dangers past—nature looks gay around me,
 And all creation seems to join my joy.

With transports now I take my little offspring
 And hug them to my bosom, while they catch
 The throbs I feel, and prattle out their joys.
 Now I can toil for them contented—freeze
 In winter's cold, and burn in summer's heat,
 And sing my cares away, while what I earn
 I'll call my own, and leave it theirs for ever.
 And hence ye patriots learn an useful lesson——

He who in virtue's cause remains unmov'd,
 And nobly struggles for his country's good,
 Shall more than conquer—better days shall beam,
 And happier prospects croud again the scene——

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV.

Enter RAPATIO, LIMPET, MEAGRE *and* P————p.

RAPATIO.

What say my friends? shall patriots, grov'ling patriots,
 Thus thwart our schemes? push back the plan of action!
 And make it thus recoil? mistaken wretches!
 Unthinking fools! they work their own destruction.
 Let them amuse themselves with thoughts of freedom,
 And bask amid the sunshine of an hour;—
 They hover o'er the secret precipice—
 The leap is death. Come, cunning be my guide,
 Beleagu'd with hell—Come all those hateful passions,
 That rouse the mind to action.

Meagre. Bravely spoke!

And here's a soul, like thine, that never linger'd
 When prompted by revenge—If thirst of power;
 A spirit haughty, sour, implacable,
 That bears a deadly enmity to freedom,
 But mean and base; who never had a notion

Of generous and manly; who would stab,
 Stab in the dark, but what he'd get revenge;
 If such a soul is suitable to thy purpose,
 'Tis here.

Rapatio. I thank thee—thy fraternal love
 I always knew, twin brother in affection.
 Bagshot complains his numbers are but few;
 We must have more: and here the field's extensive.
 But then their dev'lish *coolness* comes athwart us,
 To represent them factious and rebellious;
 Mov'd on by malice to attack the soldier—
 There lies the doubt—the *simple bare* assertion
 Would sway but weak.

Limput. If this is all you want—
 If breaking thro' the sanction of an oath
 And trampling on the highest obligations
 Would back this good design—here's one will do it.
 In youth when all my soul was full of virtue,
 And growing age had not matur'd my practice,
 I felt a pang and shudder'd at a crime.
 But thoughts like these have long since slept; old habits
 Have sear'd my conscience—Vice is now familiar—
 Prescribe whatever form you chuse—I sign it—

Rapatio. 'Tis well—then swear—that in our general meeting
 This was declar'd, that long before that night
 In which we snuff'd the blood of innocence,
 The factious citizens, urg'd on by hell,
 Had *leagu'd* together, to *attack* the soldier;
 Trample on laws; murder the friends of power
 And bury all things in one common ruin.
 All this you call the majesty of heaven
 To witness to as truth—

Limput. I do, and swear.

Rapatio. There's one thing more and then my mind's at rest.

Those noble men who fought for *government*
 Are now confin'd, and soon must have a trial.
 Let's all unite and use our utmost efforts
 To get them off. There's worthy Hazelrod
 Who hears with too much joy the groans of freedom,
 To see her executioners expire.
 On you my dear P————p much depends.

P————p. And is Rapatio grown distrustful of me?
 Of *me*, who long had sacrific'd my honor
 To be a tool?—who've cring'd and bow'd and fawn'd
 To get a place?—Fear not I e'er should prove
 An alien here—Go wash the Æthiop white
 Then bid my soul grow fond and pleas'd with virtue.

Rapatio. Then I'm secure—Know patriots this and tremble.

Grief shall again its wonted seat resume,
 And piles of mangled corpses croud the tomb.
 Thro' all the wanton streets of pow'r I'll rove,
 And soar exulting like the bird of Jove,
 On lofty pinions put a sovereign sway,
 And glow illustrious in the blaze of day. [*Exeunt.*]

End of the third ACT

ACT IV. SCENE I.

Enter RAPATIO and GRIPEALL.

RAPATIO.

Hail halcyon days! when every flying moment
 Affords new scenes of joy; what tho' the soldier
 True to my purpose hurls promiscuous slaughter;
 He lives and triumphs while the scales of justice
 Thus by my tools are held. The day is ours.
 Such acts my Hazelrod, demand promotion
 And thou shall have it—Yes the time approaches,

The happy period dawns, when thou shall swell
 The chair of state, and roll in wish'd-for honors—
 Thus while each post is garnish'd with my creatures,
 I'll show my pow'r, and trample on my country.

Gripeall. 'Twas nobly spoke—there breath'd the soul of Cæsar.

Nor will I pause—my faithful myrmidons
 Wait thy command and hang upon thy will.
 I'll use the little pow'r that's lodg'd within me.
 I'll cramp their trade till pale ey'd poverty
 Haunts all their streets, and frowns destruction on them.
 While many a poor man, leaning on his staff,
 Beholds a numerous, famish'd offspring round him.
 Who weep for bread. Gods! how his bosom heaves!
 Ghastly he rolls an aching eye upon them,
 Then blasts my name, and with a groan expires.

Rapatio. What throbs of joy—Nero, I tow'r above thee.
 [Exeunt.]

SCENE II.

RAPATIO'S *House.*

RAPATIO *solus.*

O FORTUNATE!————

Could I have tho't my stars would be so kind
 As thus to bring my deeplaid schemes to bear.
 Tho' from my youth ambition's path I trod,
 Suck'd the contagion from my mother's breast;
 The early taint has rankled in my veins;
 Despotic rule my first, my sov'reign wish.
 Yet to succeed beyond my sanguine hope,
 To quench the generous flame, the ardent love
 Of liberty in Servia's freeborn sons,
 Destroy their boasted rights, and mark them slaves:

To ride triumphant o'er my native land
 And revel on its spoils—But hark!—it groans!
 The heaving struggles of expiring freedom!—
 Her dying pangs—and I the guilty cause:—
 I shudder at the thought—why this confusion?
 The phantom conscience, whom I've bid adieu—
 Can she return?—O let me, let me fly!
 I dare not meet my naked heart alone.
 I'll haste for comfort to the busy scenes
 Where fawning courtiers, creatures of my own,
 With adulating tongue, midst gaping crouds,
 Shall strive to paint me fair—the day is lucky—
 The divan meets and Hazelrod presides.
 'Tis true in rhetoric he don't excell
 Demosthenes, or Cicero of old:
 But what of that, his gratitude to me
 Will animate each period of applause.
 I from a fribbling, superficial dabler,
 A vain pretender to each learned science,
 A poet, preacher, conjurer and quack—
 Rear'd the obsequious trifler to my purpose,
 Rob'd him in scarlet, dignified the man:
 An hecatomb of incense is my due.
 How grateful to my ear these flatt'ring strains!
 His fulsome requiems sooth my soul to peace.
 Who else wou'd place in such a sacred seat
 Credulity inwove with the extremes
 Of servile, weak, implacable and proud.
 But see he comes—see that important phiz,
 A speech prepar'd, but what I must correct
 If interlard'd with profuse encomiums.—
 To hold me up the paragon of virtue—
 But it may pass—of modern composition
 That's the test——

Enter HAZELROD.

Welcome, my Hazelrod.—
 My friend, my brother, or still dearer name,
 Thou firm abettor of my grand design!
 Thou now canst cover what the world call crimes.
 We'll then securely crush the scoundrell mob,
 And Claudia-like, the citizens ride o'er
 And execute what Nero durst not do—

[HAZELROD *going hastily off*, RAPATIO *stops him.*]

I'll call my myrmidons, they shall attend,
 Swell the parade with all the venal herd.
 Gripeall, that minion of oppressive power,
 With simple Dupe, the ready tool of state;
 And virtuous Limput perjur'd only once,
 Then indispensable to serve a cause
 Which truth would ruin; doubtless they'll be there.

Exeunt.

SCENE III.

Opens with a procession of coaches, chariots, &c. Changes to the chamber, where the Divan is opened with a speech by HAZELROD, highly pleasing to the creatures of arbitrary power, and equally disgusting to every man of virtue.

Enter HAZELROD.

Rapatio—hail! 'tis by thy fostering hand,
 This happy day beholds me rob'd in honor.
 Pow'r! 'tis a charm the gods can only know:
 These, while they view this little globe of earth,
 And trace the various movements of mankind,
 With pleasure mark that soul that dares aspire
 To catch this heavenly flame and copy from them.
 And sure Rapatio, if mortality
 Could ever boast an elevated genius,
 That scorns the dust, and tow'rs above the stars;

A soul that only grasps at high achievements,
 And drinks intoxicating draughts of power,
 The claim is thine—while simple yet thy station.
 True greatness peer'd, and promis'd future glory.
 Yea while an infant, hanging at the breast,
 With life, you largely suck'd the lust of power.
 In youth, in age, invariably the same.
 Thy easy flow of passion, happy talent!
 Which work'd on unsuspecting minds so strangely,
 Push'd on the plan, and pav'd the road to honor.
 With this in view, you'd imitate devotion,
 Which like a mantle, cover'd great designs,
 With virtue glow, and set among her sons:
 While these with transport listened to the tale,
 Gaz'd as they heard, and wonder'd how they lov'd.
 To catch this prize in what have you not toil'd?
 When nature slept, thy busy mind awoke,
 And por'd on future scenes, and plan'd thy fate.
 Then, when the ties of virtue and thy country
 Unhappy check'd thy lust of pow'r—like Cæsar,
 You nobly scorn'd them all, and on the ruins
 Of bleeding freedom founded all thy greatness.
 And what a rich, a glorious compensation
 For dangers past—gilded all o'er with pensions,
 Here like a mighty deity you sit,
 Enthron'd in state, nor envy Jove his thunder.

While aw'd by thee the distant nations gaze
 And thousands yield their tribute of amaze.
 Meanwhile at humble distance I pursue,
 And grow illustrious as I copy you.
 Then when I've trimpl'd on my country's fate,
 And no one lives my actions to relate,
 With my own ashes light the funeral fire,
 Die as I liv'd, and in a flash expire.

[*Exeunt.*]

End of the fourth ACT

ACT V. SCENE I.

Enter BRUTUS.

BRUTUS.

O my poor country!—————
 I've wak'd and wept, and would have fought for thee,
 And emptied every vein, when threatn'd ruin.
 Lowr'd o'er thy head; but now too late. I fear
 The manacles prepar'd by Brundo's hand,
 Cruel Rapatio, with more fatal art,
 Has fix'd, has rivetted beyond redress—
 My indignation's rouz'd, my soul disdains,
 Nor will I longer stay where poisonous breath
 Of Sycophants' applause pollutes the air.
 The shameless tyrant snuffs the base perfume;
 With unrelenting heart and brazen front
 He rears his guilty head amidst the fear
 Of Servia's virtuous sons, whose latest breath
 Shall execrate a wretch who dare enslave
 A generous, free and independent people.
 —————If, ye pow'rs divine,
 Ye mark the movements of this nether world
 And bring them to account—crush, crush these vipers,
 Who singl'd out by a community,
 To guard their rights shall for a grasp of oar,*
 Or paltry office sell them to the foe.

[*Exit.*]

SCENE II.

A PRISON.

E————R, *solus.*

It's done; not all their boasted pow'r can save me!
 Not Hazelrod himself with all his art,

*Modern, *ore.*

Who long had buoy'd up my sinking spirits,
 Can soothe the sullen passions of my soul,
 Or pour one ray of comfort on my mind.
 Condemn'd!—to die! perdition seize them all.
 Where are now all the gilded airy prospects
 That swam before me—Honors, places, pensions—
 'Tis all a cheat, a damn'd, a cruel cheat.
 The wretch that feasts himself on promises
 Pursues a phantom, and but grasps at air;
 Th' illusive vapour leads him to a bog
 Then leaves him to his fate—cursed enticers!
 Ye who seduc'd my soul to laugh at virtue,
 To give up all my right to future bliss,
 And bid me dare to stamp the die for ever:
 Ye who encourag'd me with hopes of pardon,
 To glut *your* vengeance, for the cause was *yours*,
 On weeping innocence; to act a deed
 Which sportive fame shall blow about the world,
 Where are ye now?————

Enter HAZELROD.

Hazelrod. What, lost to grief!—dejected! can it be!
 Can the poor verdict of some half form'd peasants,
 Unmeaning dull machines, thus damp your courage?
 Rouse up my friend, for friend I still will call thee:
 By every tie that links the human mind,
 That surest sympathy which cements souls,
 Which like two rivers mingle mutual streams,
 And roll together—thou art and shalt be mine.
 Know then we all have met and all determin'd
 To aid the cause in hand—decrepid Meagre
 In whom a passion of revenge is virtue;
 And he, the *life* of all:—whose simple breath
 Sways every action, cautious Latat

Whose soul ne'er knew one generous sentiment
 Which gives a sanction to humanity.
 Steady and vigilant, in one sole plan,
 To crush the friends of freedom, extirpate
 The dear remains of virtue, and like Nero,
 At one dread blow to massacre his millions.
 Steady to this one plan, tho' dreary spectres
 Scare all his soul and haunt his midnight slumber.
 Yes, we will still protect thee.—'Tis impossible
 A cause so much at heart shou'd droop and languish,
 And we not lend an aid—when S[nyder] bled,
 We snuff'd the rich perfume, the groans of youth.
 Gods! they were musick in our ears—you therefore
 Shall one day leave this dismal tenement,
 Again with pleasing scenes of blood and carnage
 To glut our vengeance—yes—by heaven we swear,
 You shall be free whatever pangs it cost us.
 We'll laugh at all the howls of patriotism.
 Should virtue check, should conscience whisper terror,
 And lash our troubled minds, we'll brave it all.—

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.

Enter BRUTUS, and MARCUS a young Patriot.

Brutus. It must be so—our fates are too unkind.
 Who would have thought beneath an air of virtue,
 Solemn grimace, and proffer of fair deeds,
 Should lurk such baseness—To see the Patriot
 Reeking in gore, excites the keenest transport,
 Oh! my poor country! when I see thee wounded,
 Bleeding to death—it pains me to the soul.
 Long have I wept in secret—nay, could weep
 'Till tears were chang'd to blood—When will it be,

When high-soul'd honor beats within our bosoms,
 And calls to action—when thy sons like heroes,
 Shall dare assert thy rights, and with their swords,
 Like men, like freemen, force a way to conquest
 Or on thy ruins gloriously expire.—

Marcus. Oh! Brutus, you excite a generous transport.
 In such a cause, pleas'd could I bare my bosom,
 And pour my choicest blood—yes, I have seen,
 Tho' young I've seen, such crimes by *ermined* wretches,
 As would have shock'd a century; one thing I wonder,
 That deeds so foul should find such warm abettors.

Brutus. You little know the world—there greater vices,
 Lead to preferment, the man of honest mind,
 Whose generous soul disdains a grov'ling action,
 And grasps alone at virtue—sinks neglected:
 Yes, my young friend, would you be great and powerful
 Loaded with wealth and honor, be a rascal,
 Stoop low and cringe—stick not at oaths, nor let
 Thy shrinking soul start at the thought of MURDER,
 Then to Rapatio go, and Hazelrod,
 And all the band shall give an hearty welcome.

Marcus. Oh no! I scorn it—better live a poor man,
 And die so too—while virtue and my conscience
 Speak peace within—better, tho' hate and malice
 May shoot their shafts against me—better thus
 To make my exit, while the soul with comfort
 Reviews the past and smiles upon the future.

Brutus. Yes, Marcus, poverty must be thy fate,
 If thou'rt thy country's friend—Think upon it
 When I'm gone, as soon perhaps I may be
 Remember it—those men whose crimes now shock
 May close their measures—Yes, the wish'd for period
 May soon arrive, when murders, blood and carnage
 Shall crimson all these streets; when this poor country

Shall lose her richest blood, forbid it heaven!

And may these monsters find their glories fade,

Crush'd in the ruins they themselves had made

While thou my country shall again revive,

Shake off misfortune, and thro' ages live.

See thro' the waste a ray of virtue gleam,

Dispell the shades and brighten all the scene.

Wak'd into life, the blooming forest glows,

And all the desert blossoms as the rose.

From distant lands see virtuous millions fly

To happier climates, and to milder sky.

While on the mind successive pleasures pour,

Till time expires, and ages are no more.

[Exeunt omnes.]

FINIS.

